

**State Emergency Operations Center**  
State of Louisiana  
Joint Information Center

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JIC Contact:  
(225) 358-5361

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Contact: Mike Steele  
Communications Director  
[Mike.Steele@la.gov](mailto:Mike.Steele@la.gov)  
(225) 788-0095

**FEMA: Check with Local Officials before Rebuilding**

**Baton Rouge, LA (September 12)** – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages you to check with local officials before starting to rebuild. As more financial assistance reaches survivors, more and more people are starting to repair and rebuild. We want to remind everyone to check with local officials before beginning new or major construction.

**Work that may require permits often includes:**

Plumbing;

Electrical system and

Foundation and structural repairs.

Your local officials may have building code requirements on how and where you can renovate or rebuild your home or business. Ask how repairs or reconstruction can meet current standards and ensure no further work will be required to bring your home or business into compliance.

You can contact your parish emergency management office to learn more about elevation and other ways to make your home or business safer and stronger.

For contact information, go to [www.gohsep.la.gov/about/parishpa.gov](http://www.gohsep.la.gov/about/parishpa.gov).

## **Mitigation at Home Improvement Stores**

Representatives from FEMA Mitigation will be on hand in several home improvement stores throughout the disaster designated areas to offer information on how to build back in a way that lessons or prevents damage from future flooding. Look for tables set up near the front of those businesses.

**###**

*Monitor DOTD's [www.511la.org](http://www.511la.org) website for updated road closure information. Look for advisories from your local authorities and emergency managers. You can find the latest information on the state's response at [www.emergency.la.gov](http://www.emergency.la.gov). GOHSEP also provides information on Facebook and Twitter. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).*